

Appl. No. 09/830,139
Amendment dated February 23, 2004
Reply to Non-Final Office Action of October 22, 2003

REMARKS

Claims 17-47 are pending. Claims 17-35 are allowed, claims 36-39 and 47 are rejected, and claims 40-46 are objected to.

Specification

The specification has been amended on pages 23 and 24 to correct an obvious error in the formulae for sodium silicates. The correct formulae appear at page 21 of the international application. No new matter has been added.

It is alleged that claim 17 is missing a word in line 7. This rejection is not understood. Applicants ask the Examiner to clarify where and what word is believed missing.

It is also suggested that "soluble polymer granules" be amended to "water-soluble polymer granules." Applicants respectfully decline, since one of skill would know from Applicants' disclosure that soluble means soluble in aqueous wash solutions or water. See page 3, lines 26-27, page 11, lines 15-16, and page 25, line 6; See also discussion of related art at page 1, line 12 to page 3, line 21. It has not been alleged that "soluble polymer granules" disallows any claim under a statute or rule. Applicants therefore ask that this objection be dropped.

Appl. No. 09/830,730
Amendment dated February 23, 2004
Reply to Non-Final Office Action of October 22, 2003

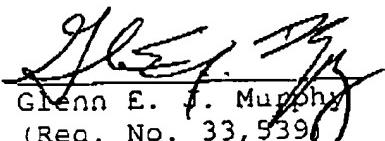
Claim Rejections

Claim 40, which was allowable, has been canceled and its matter added to claim 36. This amendment makes claim 36, and its dependent claims 37-39 and 47, allowable for the reasons given in Sections 9 and 10 of the action. It is believed all claims 17-47 are now allowable as well.

CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments and remarks above, applicants ask for reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims. Applicants further ask for extension of the period for response one month to February 22, 2004 and authorize a charge to Deposit Account No. 01-1250 in the amount of \$ 110.00 for the extension fee. Order No. 04-0069. Should any fees be due for entry and consideration of this Amendment that have not been accounted for, the Commissioner is authorized to charge them to Deposit Account No. 01-1250.

Respectfully submitted,



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